

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, the paragraphs on page 1 starting at line 5 through line 11 have been amended to remove a duplicative continuation reference included in the Preliminary Amendment of item 18 of the Continuing (1.53(b)) Utility Patent Application Transmittal since this reference was included in the application as filed. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the foregoing amendments are respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendment does not involve a reopening of prosecution and is therefore appropriate for approval and entry in an amendment under 37 CFR 1.312. MPEP 714.16.

CONCLUSION:

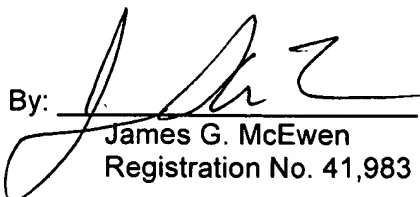
In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any additional fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

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